

EFFECT OF WEATHER ON CROPS AND FARMING OPERATIONS, SEPTEMBER, 1920.

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Frequent rains during the first half of the month delayed farm work in the southern Great Plains area and in many Southern States, and the soil was too dry for fall plowing in the central and western Lake region and parts of the upper Mississippi Valley, although rains the latter part of this period in the western Lake region improved soil conditions in that section, and greatly facilitated the preparation of seed beds for winter grains.

The warm and comparatively dry weather that prevailed the latter half of the month was very favorable for the preparation of the soil, and the seeding of winter grains in the principal grain producing districts, although moisture continued deficient in a few sections, principally in the western Lake region, the southwestern Plains, and in some central Rocky Mountain-Plateau districts. The rainfall in Montana and other areas of the far Northwest was beneficial for fall seeding.

The harvest of a good crop of buckwheat was in progress at the close of the month under favorable weather conditions, while grain sorghums had mostly matured, in excellent condition, in the lower Great Plains. There was considerable delay in late grain thrashing the first part of the month in the central and northern Plains region, and some damage occurred to grain in stack in Kansas. Some interruption to thrashing was caused by frequent showers in the far Northwest also, but thrashing progressed under favorable weather conditions in the northeastern portion of the country.

The uniformly cool weather that persisted during July and August in the principal corn-growing States continued during the first week in September. There was a marked change in temperature conditions thereafter, however, and during the last three weeks in September, temperatures much above normal prevailed throughout the central and northern sections of the country. As the corn crop was late, and there was in many localities apprehension of frost damage before maturity, the change to warmer weather was timely and very beneficial, as the crop matured rapidly and was mostly out of danger of the frost that overspread most of the belt at the close of the month. The crop in general maintained its good to excellent condition

throughout the month, and at its close the condition was much above the 10-year average in nearly all sections of the country, particularly in the lower Missouri Valley and Plains States. The Bureau of Crop Estimates reported the condition of corn on October 1, as 124 per cent of the 10-year average in Missouri; 141 per cent in Nebraska; 179 per cent in Kansas, and 186 per cent in Oklahoma.

The temperature averaged near normal in the cotton belt during the first week in September, and there was much cloudy weather, while heavy to excessive rains fell in many eastern and western districts. Thereafter temperatures were uniformly above the average and rainfall was mostly light to moderate. In some sections cotton responded more or less to the better weather conditions, but, as a rule, there was very little general improvement, and at many places a rather marked deterioration was shown. The weather favored rapid opening, however, and picking made good progress in all sections. At the close of the month the condition of the crop was near the average in Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee, and the Carolinas, and considerably above the average in Oklahoma; but at the same time it had fallen to about 80 per cent of the average in the States from Louisiana eastward to Georgia, inclusive, as given by the Bureau of Crop Estimates for September 25.

The weather continued generally favorable for potatoes, truck crops, and tobacco, although it favored late blight in potatoes in northeastern districts; considerable of this disease was reported from New York and Pennsylvania. There was some frost damage in Nevada and Idaho early in the month, while frost occurred in the northeast and in the central Rocky Mountain States during the week ending September 21, but doing no serious damage.

The weather, on the whole, was favorable for pastures, ranges, and stock, and at the close of the month stock were moving rapidly to the lower ranges in the central Rocky Mountain States because of rather heavy snow in the mountains. Stock continued in good condition in nearly all sections of the country.